

Madam Chair/Mr. Chariman and members of the committee. My name is Tawana Bourne. I am a Middletown Constituent and I will be speaking on senate bill number 1223.

I oppose senate bill number 1223 for numerous reasons, some of which I will address before you today.

Senate bill 1223 requires that a parent or guardian pays for the aftercare of a child who has been convicted as a delinquent. First of all, WHY are we convicting children rather than providing supports, resources, alternatives to convictions and incarcerations.

Secondly, Senate bill 1223 will undoubtedly affect at risk low income children and families. In these times of economic squalor, these parents and guardians are most likely not going to afford to participate in and pay for the cost of care, treatment and rehabilitation of his/her child.

Senate bill 1223 fails to guarantee that a child who is displaying delinquent actions and behaviors receive positives supports and supportive resources to help counteract that status of delinquency.

Rather, senate bill 1223 is designed to criminalize and penalize a parent or guardian of an at risk child and prolong a viscous cycle of generational criminality and increase the already disproportionate incarceration rates.

Senate bill 1223 is adversarial in nature and sure to catapult families of children displaying delinquent actions and behaviors into a reality of loss hope and nothingness. The *circumstances* and *conditions* that many of these children and families are facing requires reasonable, attainable, and realistic interventions, supports, and services and not a vicious penal system, not a criminal record, and not another financial burden.

Let's consider the true intentions of senate bill 1223 and ask ourselves, what are the desired outcomes of the bill and if the desired outcomes are in alignment with the integrity of what a government and judiciary system is meant to be.

Members of the judicatory committee, please vote down senate bill 1223.